Amendments to the Claims

CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of coarse representation of a shape of a visible object in a digital picture comprising the steps of:

segmenting visible objects from the digital picture:

extracting a bitmap for an object of interest from the segmented visible objects; and

estimating from the bitmap ~~and~~ a display aspect ratio a<u>nd a</u> binding box for the object of interest<u>, wherein said estimation step additional comprises</u>

<u>estimating in pixel units a set of parameters for the binding box;</u>

<u>and</u>

<u>normalizing the pixel units to form a feature vector representing</u>

<u>the binding box;</u>

<u>searching a video database having visible objects, each visible object</u>

<u>having an associated feature vector, as to find those objects whose feature</u>

<u>vectors match the feature vector of the object of interest; wherein said</u>

<u>searching step additionally comprises</u>

<u>computing aspect ratios for all visible objects in the video</u>

<u>database;</u>

<u>computing distances according to a specified distance metric</u>

<u>between the desired aspect ratio and the aspect ratios for the visible</u>

<u>objects in the video database;</u>

<u>sorting the distances in descending order to produce a sort list</u>

<u>of aspect ratios and associated visible objects; and</u>

<u>displaying the visible objects associated with the aspect ratios</u>

<u>that are at the top of the sort list.</u>

Claims 2-4 (cancelled)